

Geographic Review Panel 4 – San Joaquin River

Proposal number: 2001-H202

Short Proposal Title: Tuolumne River- Local Watershed Stewardship

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. This watershed education and outreach proposal for the Tuolumne River will support CALFED ERP Strategic Goals A, B, C, and D and is consistent with the AFRP approach to involve local and willing landowners in restoration activities. It should also promote AFRP priorities to focus restoration attention on natural channel and riparian habitat values. Both CALFED and the AFRP are currently funding large- and smaller-scale restoration activities on the Tuolumne River that are consistent with the Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee's (TRTAC) process-based restoration vision and plan for the Tuolumne River. In order to further promote the restoration vision and provide additional opportunities for local restoration partnerships this is an excellent next step. This proposed effort will also build off of previously conducted outreach by the TRTAC using the restoration concept document. That was a good start but more and intensified local outreach and contact are needed.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. As mentioned above, this proposed outreach effort builds off the TRTAC's previous outreach efforts and is fully in line with the TRTAC's Habitat Restoration Plan for the Tuolumne River. The TRTAC and constituent members are currently implementing and planning numerous restoration efforts along the length of the lower Tuolumne River consistent with the Restoration Plan. This stewardship program will continue to support and articulate the benefits of these efforts. It will also help to maintain and build additional local support of, and opportunity for, additional restoration opportunities.

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. This stewardship is very feasible for two reasons. The effort has a sound foundation to build from, and the proponents will receive support from TRTAC constituent members during the implementation of any of the proposed outreach elements.

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. The project lead has a record of working with diverse publics, both one-on-one and in groups. The project lead also has a good background in public policy and environmental science.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). This project is designed to increase public involvement and awareness of the TRTACs restoration vision. While the TRTAC has a sound technical restoration plan, they would certainly improve their visibility and local credibility through this outreach effort. In order to sustain local and

build local involvement and support for the Restoration Plan, additional outreach such as this is needed.

6. Cost. The cost of the project appears reasonable, especially in lieu of the quantity of meetings involved. The only question on cost, as noted by one independent technical reviewer, is the need for the consultant originally responsible for creating the restoration brochure to be responsible for simple reproduction, which adds additional overhead.

7. Cost sharing. A \$10,000 cost-share in addition to the \$62,000 request is provided.

8. Additional comments. This Panel believes this is an important, timely and worthy outreach and stewardship effort. The TARP ranked the project as Fair, although each of the three reviewers ranked this proposal as Very Good, Very Good, and Good. It appears that this is in part because the TARP did not approve of the plan being developed by a rather small group of stakeholders and now retroactively reaching out to a broader constituency. However, it was a regulatory and Settlement Agreement Process on the Tuolumne River that was the foundation for the restoration planning effort. It was not your conventional stakeholder process. The TRTAC is now hoping to share their vision and plan in a very open and voluntary process.

One reviewer noted that additional funding support to develop a more quantitative assessment on the efficacy of the outreach activities merits consideration by prospective funding entities. Although not part of the proposal, the proponent could be encouraged to develop a more quantitative assessment strategy.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium high

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: This Panel believes this project justifies a Medium High ranking because of its regional importance and its potential to build off of existing restoration and outreach activities already initiated by the TRTAC. The Tuolumne River is currently the focus of numerous channel restoration projects along the river, with significant funding contributions by both CALFED and the AFRP. The time is ripe for additional and intensified outreach and stewardship to maintain and build off of existing local support and awareness of restoration issues and opportunities.